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At a GENERAL MEITING *of the* SOCIETY *of the* FRIENDS OF THE PEOPLE, *formed in Southwark for the Cultivation of political Knowledge, holden May 8, 1792, at the Thre-Tuns Tavern, St. Margaret's Hill:*

Mr. SAMUEL FAVELL in the Chair:

THE Committee appointed at the laſt Meeting brought up their Report, of which the following is an Extract;

"THE Committee obſerve, that Diviſions are already formed, and have met and ſettled Plans of Aſſociations, and that two Diviſions have recommended "The Committee to prepare an Addreſs to the FRIENDS of the PEOPLE, held at Freemaſons' Tavern, expreſſing Approbation of their declared Objects, and promiſing the Support of this Society towards their full and complete Attainment."

"The Committee has ſeen a very able Member of that Society [illegible] mentary-Reform, and feel the juſt Indignation of Engliſhmen deprived of their Rights at the hoſtile Endeavours and wretched Sophiſtry of ſlaviſh Courtiers. Nothing, however, can damp the Ardour of Men who reſolve to be free. Men, who have long beheld themſelves the Sport of intereſted Intrigue or the Bubble of Faction. 'Strong and well-grounded Opinions on the Subject of Abuſes in the Government and Corruption in the Conſtitution' have long been univerſal, and Parliaments have long refuſed Redreſs; but they cannot long continue to refuſe. The People of England are now going up to the Sources and ſearching for the Cauſes of public Evils. They examine for themſelves; they reaſon, and, let it not ſhock the venal Ear of the Courtier, they can reaſon juſtly on the Subject of civil Government. Science has enlightened and Obſervation enlarged the Minds of Men, and rendered them capable of forming juſt Opinions of the Dignity and Rights of Man.

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"Our Anceſtors [illegible] and, as a French Writer obſerves, waded through Seas of Blood to drown the Idol of ARBITRARY POWER. But a more formidable Enemy to Liberty has ariſen ſince, the INFLUENCE of the Crown, which extends its baneful and all-ſeducing Poiſon down to the loweſt Orders of the State. This Monſter has wantonly trampled upon Liberty, and muſt be oppoſed,

otherwiſe it will ſoon ndermine every vital Principle of Freedom, ruin our Commerce, and render the Engliſh Nation, from being a Race o brave and independent Freemen, the moſt ſervile People in he World.

"The Committee, therefore, recommends this Society to purſue with Ardour t profeſſed Objects of their Aſſociation, and to remember that the Love of our Country is not a chimerical, but a real, Duty. They recommend them to nouriſh this Sentiment in themſelves and cultivate it in others; and, if there is a Man living who is not animated by this Conſideration, and who will not lend his Hand to advance the Cauſe of civil Freedom, they affirm that he can have no Elevation of Mind, no Regard for Poſterity, nor the leaſt Tincture of that pubic Morality which diſtinguiſhes a good from a bad Citizen."

An Addreſs was then read and unanimouſly agreed to, of which the following is a Copy.

The Addreſs of the Society of the FRIENDS OF THE PEOPLE, *meeting in Southwark, to the Society of the Friends of the People aſſociated to [illegible] Reform.*

SIR,

HAVING read, with much Satisfaction, your late Addreſs to the Public, and conſidered the Declaration that accompanies it, we feel the ſtrongeſt Inclination to congratulate our Country on the Proſpect that is opening upon us of a ſubſtantial and real Reform in Parliament, a Meaſure of the higheſt public Utility, and upon which the political Salvation of Britain wholly depends.

We have long ſeen with concern the Neceſſity of this Meaſure, long ſeen it procraſtinated, and lament that public Grievances, ariſing out of the defective State of the Repreſentation, ſhould be ſuffered to to grow to ſuch an enormous Size and Number.

A Remedy we conceive muſt be undertaken proportioned to the Diſeaſe, and adequate to the full Reſtoration of public Health and Felicity, the great End of all civil Government. 'The Maſs of the People, as you very juſtly obſerve, are not ſatisfied with the preſent State of Things, nor indifferent about it,' and the People, it muſt ever be remembered, is the true Source of all Sovereign-Authority.—Government on any other Principle is a political Soleciſm, allied to Deſpotiſm, and ſubverſive of the Rights of Men as Citizens.

Theſe are our Principles, and as they are very congenial with yours, we promiſe you our moſt hearty Concurrence and Support, as long as you act up to them. We think with you, that 'the Objects of your Aſſociation are of a Nature at all Times fit to be purſued and recommended

mended to the Country," and that a Seaſon of "general Tranquillity," like the preſent, is, of all others, the moſt proper for "temperate Reflection" and "prudent Exertion."

We perceive many Difficulties, which it will require the nobleſt and beſt-directed Efforts of Patriotiſm to ſurmount; but the Taſk will be ſhort and eaſy in Proportion to the Virtue and Ability of thoſe that engage in it. It will be oppoſed by the "united Strength of various Intereſts," but the ſteady and determined Spirit of the Nation will eventually prevail.

Southwark, May 8, 1792. SAMUEL FAVELL, Chairman.
To William Baker, Eſq. Chairman, &c.

ANSWER.

SIR, *Freemaſons' Tavern, May* 12, 1792.

I am deſired, by the Society of the Friends of the People, aſſociated for the Purpoſe of obtaining a Parliamentary-Reform, reſpectfully to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter, and to return our Thanks to the Society of the Friends of the People in Southwark for the Communication contained therein.

To Samuel Favell, Eſq. Chairman of the Society of the Friends of the People aſſembled in Southwark.

I have the Honour to be,
SIR,
Your moſt obedient humble Servant,
JOHN RUSSELL, Chairman.

The following Declaration of conſtitutional Rights of KING, LORDS, and COMMONS, of Great-Britain was then propoſed and adopted.

I. The Right of making Laws for this Realm is, by the Conſtitution, lodged in the Hands of King, Lords of Parliament, and the Repreſentatives of the Commons, or Commoners.

II. Every Commoner (Infants, inſane Perſons, and Criminals who may have forfeited their Rights by the Commiſſion of Crimes, only excepted) is of common Right, and by the Laws of God, a FREEMAN, and entitled to the full Enjoyment of political Liberty.

III. Every Britiſh Commoner has a Right to an actual Share either in Legiſlation itſelf or in electing ſome one of thoſe who are to frame the Laws.

IV. It is the Right of the Britiſh Commoners to elect a new Houſe of Parliament once, at leaſt, in every Year.

RESOLVED, That ſix more Gentlemen be aſſociated with the original Committee of Five, and conſtitute a Committee of

of Eleven, to conduct Buſineſs, to be empowered to call a General Meeting if neceſſary, and to exiſt till ſeven Diviſions are formed.

RESOLVED. That the Thanks of this Society be given to Lord DAER and Major CARTWRIGHT, for their Attendance this Evening.

RESOLVED, That the Thanks of this Society be given to Mr. SAMUEL FAVELL for his Conduct in the Chair, and that he be appointed Treaſurer to the Society.

RULES of the SOCIETY.

I. The Number of Members to be unlimited, and each ſubſcribe not leſs than 1s. 6d. per Quarter, for the Purpoſe of carrying on the Deſigns of the Inſtitution.

II. The Society ſhall meet in ſmall Parties, or Diviſions, monthly, on any Day in the firſt Week of the Month, except Tueſday.—Ten Members to conſtitute a Diviſion, and, when they amount to thirty, it ſhall be ſubdivided, and form two.

III. Each Diviſion to elect a Chairman and Secretary quarterly, and at the firſt Meeting of the Quarter. The Chairman to be their Repreſentative in a General Committee; and, in Caſe the Diviſion ſhall conſiſt of twenty Perſons, another Repreſentative ſhall be choſen to accompany the Chairman. The Secretary ſhall record the Tranſactions, and deliver quarterly to the General Committee a correct Liſt of the Members of ſuch Diviſion, collect the Subſcriptions, and pay them forthwith to the Treaſurer of the Society.

IV. The Repreſentatives ſhall form a General Committee, meet every Tueſday, and, at their firſt Meeting in each Quarter, elect a Chairman and principal Secretary. They ſhall correſpond with ſimilar Inſtitutions, determine on all Publications to be circulated by the Society, report to their reſpective Diviſions the Proceedings and Correſpondence of the Committee, and in all Caſes be governed by the prevailing Sentiments of their Conſtituents.

V. The Chairman of the General Committee ſhall be Treaſurer for the Time being, receive the Subſcriptions, pay all Diſburſements under the Direction of the Committee, and have his Accounts audited by the next ſucceeding Committee.

VI. Each Diviſion ſhall determine within itſelf on the Mode of admitting Members, and all other Matters not provided for in the foregoing Articles.

The Committee, appointed to carry the above Plan into Execution, invite the Friends of Freedom, reſident in Southwark and its Environs, to form immediate Aſſociations in their reſpective Neighbourhoods; and, either as Diviſions or independent Bodies, to communicate with the General Committee of this Society. The Committee alſo inform them that Diviſions are forming at the following Places, Borough High-Street, Dean-Street, Bermondſey-Street, Walworth, Black-Friars Road, &c. and that, for farther Particulars, Application may be made to

C. HUMPHREYS,
Secretary to the Committee. Dock-Head, Southwark.